Cost reduction in Indian Industry

3047. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to introduce cost reduction in Indian Industry to improve its competitive strength *vis-a-vis* Chinese industries; and

(b) whether Government is considering a proposal to provide imports and international prices to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government has constituted National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) to introduce cost reduction and enhance the competitive strength of Indian manufacturing industry in general.

(b) Imports related to export promotion are allowed at concessional duty and even duty free as per schemes detailed at Chapter 4 & 5 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009.

UNCTAD Survey on FDI Prospects

3048. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an United Nations conference on Trade and Development survey on Foreign Direct Investment prospects for 2005-06, covering 81 countries, India occupies the second position, next only to China as the most attractive investment destination after China for Transnational Corporations;

(b) if so, what percentage of Transnational Corporations found China, India, US, UK, Russia and Pakistan, as attractive destination; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken or contemplated by Government to make India a more attractive investment destination by multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Based on the FDI prospects survey quoted in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD's) ' World Investment Report, 2005', 51%